

REMARKS

Claims 1, 8, 12, 14, 16, 18, and 21 are pending. Claims 1 and 21 are independent claims. Claims 19 and 20 were previously withdrawn pursuant to a requirement for restriction. Claims 2-7, 9-11, 13, 15, and 17 have been cancelled. Claims 8, 12, 14, and 16 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced.

Claim amendments

Claims 8, 12, 14, and 16 previously depended from claim 3 which was canceled. In this supplemental reply, these claims are amended to correct the dependency of each of these claims. As amended, these claims depend from claim 1.\

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the remarks made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant : Kozuka et al.
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Respectfully submitted,

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/ Sushil Shrinivasan L0368 /
Sushil Shrinivasan
Reg. No. L0368

PTO Customer No. 26171
Fish & Richardson P.C.

Telephone: (202) 783-5070
Facsimile: (877) 769-7945

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